



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS IMPACT CITY GARBAGE SERVICE

As a reminder, Christmas and New Year's Day will alter the garbage pickup schedule for residents during the weeks of December 22st through December 26th and the week of December 29th through January 1st. With Christmas and New Year's Day both falling on a Thursday, MDC Environmental Services will pick up garbage one day later for residents with normal pick-up days on Thursday and Friday. Any questions should be directed to the City's garbage contractor, MDC Environmental Services at 815-568-7274.



WPD COLLECTING FOR TOYS FOR TOTS



The Woodstock Police Department is collecting toys for children in need through Monday, December 15th. A Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots collection box is available 24/7 in the department's lobby at 656 Lake Avenue for receiving donations of new, unwrapped toys. All toys will be distributed to children living in McHenry County.

For further information, please contact Telecommunicator Grant Havens at 815-338-2131 or ghavens@woodstockil.gov.

LIBRARY NEWS

The annual D200 Art Show opened at the library this week, with nearly 600 parents, friends and art enthusiasts filing through the library on opening night, Tuesday, December 9. Student artwork from elementary school through high school is on display through January 11, 2015. There are literally hundreds of wonderful pieces of art on display from talented students throughout the district.

Our semi-annual blood drive is next Thursday, December 18 from 3:30 - 7:00PM. Heartland Blood Centers will be coordinating the blood drive, and anyone who can donate may set up an appointment with them at heartlandbc.org. Or you can call the library, 815-338-0542.

Finals are just around the corner, so the Library is hosting a study night on Monday, December 15 from 6:30 - 8:30PM. We'll have pizza and drinks, or you can bring your own snacks. This is for students in grades 6-12 and will be held in our upstairs Young Adult/Community Study area.

Also on Monday, Dec. 15, we'll be showing the 1938 version of A Christmas Carol in our meeting room at 10:00AM and again at 6:00PM.

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CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY FOR LOCAL CHILDREN

On Sunday, December 7th, members of the **Woodstock Police Department** volunteered their time to participate in the 21st annual “Shop with a Cop” event. Volunteers were paired with an underprivileged child to assist them with their Christmas shopping. Every child was given \$150 to spend as they saw fit and also received a brand new winter coat, boots, hat and gloves. It’s always heartwarming to see the children pick out items not only for themselves, but also purchase gifts for their parents, siblings or extended family. Volunteers wrapped the gifts while the children enjoyed eating breakfast with their new found friends.

The program is sponsored by McHenry County Police Charities. Funds are raised at the annual “Donut Run” motorcycle rally and through private donations. This year department personnel escorted eight children from Woodstock; together they enjoyed shopping at the Wal-Mart store in Crystal Lake and then shared a delicious breakfast donated by D’Andrea Banquets.

Chief Robert Lowen and his wife, Debbie; Deputy Chief John Lieb; Detective Sergeant Jeff Parsons; Sergeant Ray Lanz; Officer Jeremy Mortimer and his wife, Hollie; Officers Brett Muehlfelt, Mike Gustis, Mike Niedzwiecki and Sharon Freund; Telecommunicator Grant Havens and his fiancée, Jennifer Rogers; Telecommunicator Nancy Shepherd; Community Service Officer Glen Davis; and Police Explorers Stephen Kroll, Andrew Yuzeitis and Alexander Gockenbach volunteered a portion of their day to help brighten the holidays for these less fortunate children. A big thank you goes to **Sergeant Lanz** who expertly coordinated the department’s participation in the event this year.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the organization may do so by mailing their contribution to McHenry County Police Charities P.O. Box 981 Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0981.

ASH TREE REMOVAL

Within the City’s park system there are many areas maintained. One of these areas is the parkway, or public right-of-way; the area between the sidewalk and street. Throughout the City there are many trees in the right-of-way; some of them are Ash trees that are infected with the Emerald Ash Borer. **Pat O’Leary**, the City’s Arborist, along with the **Parks Division**, will be removing dead Ash trees during the winter months.

In an effort to maintain healthy trees, and to eliminate any damage from falling limbs, the Parks Division follows this schedule with regard to tree work, weather permitting:

- **Winter:** Tree removal, Customer Service Requests (CSR)/ Emergency Response.
- **Spring:** Stump grinding, Right-of-way cleanup and repairs, CSRs and Emergency Response.
- **Summer:** Tree trimming, Stump grinding, Right-of-way Cleanup and Repair, CSRs and Emergency Response.
- **Fall:** Tree Removal, Tree trimming, Stump grinding, Right-of-way Cleanup and Repair, CSRs and Emergency Response.

Performing this type of work will assist in the elimination of Emerald Ash Borer from our community and will alleviate the risk of some falling branches throughout the year. Also, this will help in keeping Woodstock the beautiful City that it is.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact the **Department of Public Works**, 815-338-6118.



WPD TELECOMMUNICATOR KAROLEWICZ SUPPORTS TROOPS

Woodstock Police Department Telecommunicator Robin Karolewicz collected items for “Operation Support Our Troops” once again this year. She began her efforts several years ago in honor and memory of her late husband, Steven Karolewicz, a veteran himself.

Robin collected a variety of items the soldiers are in need of (such as toiletries, snacks, socks, etc.) in large collection boxes at the WPD; she also collected similar items from her Stampin’ Up scrapbooking group. She amassed a very respectable number of boxes chock full of a little bit of home for the troops. The boxes were picked up last Thursday and driven to Support Our Troops headquarters to be packed and shipped directly to the troops.

Congratulations, Robin, for a job well done and for your on-going support of this worthwhile organization!



PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE FOR WINTER

- Winterize your vehicle or have your vehicle serviced by a reputable dealer, garage or mechanic.
- Check your wipers, tires, lights and fluid levels regularly. Make sure the brakes and transmission are working properly. Lubricate door and trunk locks to prevent them from freezing.
- Prepare a **Winter Storm Survival Kit** and carry it in your vehicle. A kit is important even for short trips. If you have an accident or vehicle breakdown, you may be waiting several hours for assistance to arrive.

Winter storm survival kit for travelers

- Cell phone and charger
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Knife
- High calorie, non-perishable food
- Water
- Extra clothing & boots to keep dry
- Water-proof matches
- Sack of sand (or cat litter)
- Shovel
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Tool kit
- Tow rope with loops (avoid chains and hooks if at all possible)
- Booster cables
- Water Container
- Compass and road maps



Shared from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, State of Illinois.

DAMAGE DURING SNOW REMOVAL

In the process of snow removal each winter, an unavoidable fact of snowplowing is that mailboxes may be hit by a City plow. It is necessary for the City plows to clear the snow all the way to the curb line to allow for normal mail delivery. Many factors explain why damage may occur, such as wet or heavy snow, frequency of snow events, location of the mailbox and post; damage to mailboxes and / or tree banks is sometimes unavoidable. The City will replace and / or restore damaged mailboxes caused by the City's snow plows; however, the City is not responsible for damage caused by private contractors or traffic accidents on snow-covered streets.

If a City plow damages your mailbox or tree bank, please contact the **Department of Public Works**. A temporary mailbox will be provided until weather conditions permit the final repair or replacement. If the mailbox cannot be repaired, the City will provide a replacement using a standard post and mailbox. The City is not responsible for the full cost of an exact replacement of custom mailboxes.

If the tree bank has been damaged by a City plow during snow removal, restoration will be completed when weather permits and material is available, usually during the month of June. To report snowplow damage, please call Public Works at 815-338-6118.



WOODSTOCK MAKES HISTORY!



Explore and Enjoy Our Heritage

Woodstock was notified this week that our community has been awarded a Preserve America Community designation by the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. This national honor is awarded to a select group of applicants from across the US each year; previous Illinois recipients include only ten other cities.

The distinction includes a Certificate of Recognition signed by First Lady Michelle Obama; a Preserve America road sign to encourage heritage tourism visitors, and usage of the logo on banners and promotional materials; a listing and profile in the online Preserve America Community directory; national and regional press releases; and, eligibility to apply for National Park Service Historic Preservation grants, in years the program receives funding.

Economic Development studies show that communities that preserve and celebrate their distinctive heritage improve the quality of life for residents, as well as the visitor experience for travelers. Travelers are more apt to visit places with a strong sense of place and distinctive stories to tell, and such visitors tend to stay longer and spend more than other visitors. A community's investment in historic preservation and heritage tourism therefore directly creates jobs, increases property values, promotes community cohesion and stimulates the local economy

Using the **Woodstock Opera House**, and its years of meticulous restoration efforts, as a focal point, **Grant Writer Terry Willcockson** compiled and submitted the extensive application for this honor, with invaluable assistance from **Managing Director John Scharres**, **Building Manager Mark Greenleaf** and **City Planner Nancy Baker**. But

the true credit for this achievement goes to every City of Woodstock employee who spends the majority of his or her day working to preserve the beauty, charm and historic character of this community. Bravo!

SAVE THE DATE: 2015 CITY OF WOODSTOCK WELLNESS DAY:



Mark your calendars for the 2015 City of Woodstock Wellness Day, which will be held on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, January 14, 2015: 7:00AM – 11:00AM**
- **Thursday, January 22, 2015: 7:00AM – 11:00AM**

Further details, including registration information, will be forthcoming.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

Tuesday, December 16 –City Council, 7PM,
Council Chambers

Wednesday, December 17 – Transportation
Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

Quotation

Believe and act as if it were impossible to fail.

Charles Kettering

LAST TWEEN NIGHT OF THE YEAR WITH NOT A MINUTE TO SPARE



Over 60 tweens, from 5th-8th grade, filled the Recreation Center for the last **Tween Night** of 2014. In addition to open gym, walleyball, and swimming, stations were set up in the multi-purpose room for the tweens to play a holiday version of Minute to

Win It.

Tween Nights begin again on Saturday, January 3. In addition to Tween Nights at the Rec Center, bus trips will also be offered to go Tubing, Chocolate Making, Bowling and to see the Rockford Ice Hogs.



RECRUITMENT

The City of Woodstock is accepting applications for a **Limited Part-Time Playroom Attendant** position with the Woodstock Recreation Center at 820 Lake Avenue. Examples of duties and responsibilities: supervise members' children in the playroom to ensure appropriate play, safety and security of the children; perform light cleaning tasks such as washing and folding towels, cleaning equipment, etc. Minimum requirements: 16 years of age and older; ability to supervise children, serving as a positive example to them; childcare experience is preferable; ability to obtain CPR/First Aid/AED Certification required (training provided); ability to respond to customer service inquiries in a pleasant, mature fashion. This position works evenings, approximately 8-10 hours per week, within the following possible scheduled time periods: 3:45-8:00PM, 4:00-7:00PM, or 5:00-7:00PM at the Rec Center; or 5:00-6:45PM at YMMA on the Square. Possible substitute hours, when needed, 7:45-11AM at the Rec Center.

Please refer to the City's website Employment Opportunities section for further details and the application process. *The City of Woodstock is an Equal Opportunity Employer.* Application Deadline: Friday, January 9, 2015 at 5:00PM.

WINTER WEATHER: PREVENTING CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING AFTER AN EMERGENCY

Highlights

- Generators, grills, camp stoves, or other gasoline, propane, natural gas, or charcoal-burning devices should never be used inside a home, basement, garage, or camper - or even outside near an open window.
- Every home should have at least one working carbon monoxide detector. The detector's batteries should be checked at least twice annually, at the same time smoke detector batteries are checked.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death if inhaled.



When power outages occur during emergencies such as hurricanes or winter storms, the use of alternative sources of fuel or electricity for heating, cooling, or cooking can cause CO to build up in a home, garage, or camper and to poison the people and animals inside.

Every year, more than 400 people die in the U.S. from accidental CO poisoning.

CO is found in combustion fumes, such as those produced by small gasoline engines, stoves, generators, lanterns, and gas ranges, or by burning charcoal and wood. CO from these sources can build up in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. People and animals in these spaces can be poisoned and can die from breathing CO.

How to recognize CO poisoning

Exposure to CO can cause loss of consciousness and death. The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. People who are sleeping or who have been drinking alcohol can die from CO poisoning before ever having symptoms.

Important CO poisoning prevention tips

- Never use a gas range or oven to heat a home.
- Never leave the motor running in a vehicle parked in an enclosed or partially enclosed space, such as a garage.
- Never run a motor vehicle, generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine outside an open window, door, or vent where exhaust can vent into an enclosed area.
- Never run a generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine inside a basement, garage, or other enclosed structure, even if the doors or windows are open, unless the equipment is professionally installed and vented. Keep vents and flues free of debris, especially if winds are high. Flying debris can block ventilation lines.
- Never use a charcoal grill, hibachi, lantern, or portable camping stove inside a home, tent, or camper.
- If conditions are too hot or too cold, seek shelter with friends or at a community shelter.
- If CO poisoning is suspected, call your local Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 or consult a health care professional right away.